98 MAY 11 PI 3:51

May 6, 1998

The Honorable John D. Dingell
509 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: H.R. 3605 Patients Bill of Rights Act

Dear Representative Dingell:

The American Academy of Emergency Medicine is pleased to endorse the above bill. The Academy is a professional society representing physicians board-certified in the specialty of Emergency Medicine. It is our belief that the Patient Bill of Rights Act, by codifying the "prudent layperson" standard for access to emergency care, will improve the well being of our nations's citizens. Delays in seeking medical care for serious conditions such as heart attacks, strokes, and asthma may lead to unnecessary deaths and complications. The "prudent layperson" standard will help prevent such delays. Because of this and other important patient protections in this legislation we whole heartedly endorse this Act.

The Academy would be willing to testify or provide case example of the need for this legislation as it applies to emergency care if that would be of service. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. McNamara, M.D., FAAEM
President

RMM:eak